

Amendments to the Claims:

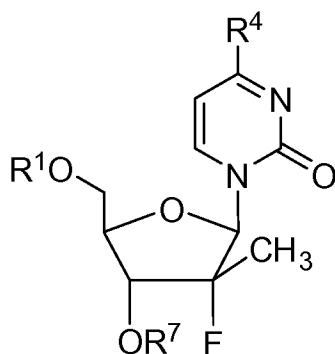
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-129 (Canceled).

Claim 130 (New): A method for the treatment of hepatitis C infection, which comprises:

administering to a mammal in need thereof an antivirally effective amount of a (2'*R*)-2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro-2'-*C*-methyl nucleoside (β -D or β -L) or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the structure:



wherein

R¹ and R⁷ are independently H, a monophosphate, a diphosphate, a triphosphate, a H-phosphonate, an alkyl, an alkyl sulfonyl, or an arylalkyl sulfonyl; and

R⁴ is NH₂ or OH.

Claim 131 (New): The method for the treatment of hepatitis C infection of claim 130, wherein R⁷ is H and R¹ is a monophosphate, a diphosphate, or a triphosphate.

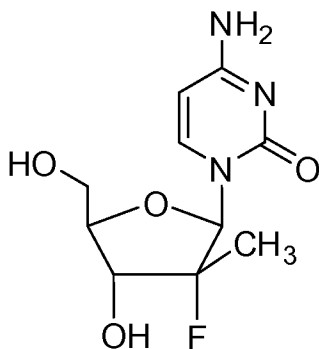
Claim 132 (New): The method for the treatment of hepatitis C infection of claim 130, wherein R⁷ is H and R¹ is a diphosphate, or a triphosphate.

Claim 133 (New): The method for the treatment of hepatitis C infection of claim 130, wherein R^7 is H and R^1 is a triphosphate.

Claim 134 (New): The method for the treatment of hepatitis C infection of claim 130, wherein R^1 and R^7 are H.

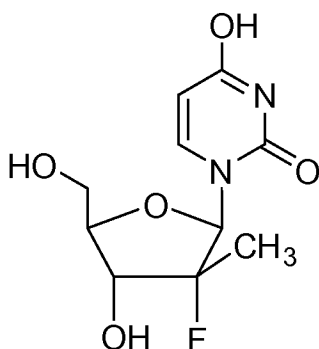
Claim 135 (New): A method for the treatment of hepatitis C infection, which comprises:

administering to a mammal in need thereof an antivirally effective amount of a (2'*R*)-2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro-2'-*C*-methyl nucleoside (β -D) or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of the formula:



Claim 136 (New): A method for the treatment of hepatitis C infection, which comprises:

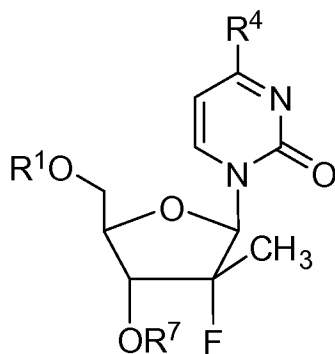
administering to a mammal in need thereof an antivirally effective amount of a (2'*R*)-2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro-2'-*C*-methyl nucleoside (β -D) or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of the formula:



Claim 137 (New): A method for the treatment of hepatitis C infection, which comprises:

administering to a mammal in need thereof an antivirally effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising

a (2'*R*)-2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro-2'-*C*-methyl nucleoside (β -D or β -L) or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the structure:



wherein

R^1 and R^7 are independently H, a monophosphate, a diphosphate, a triphosphate, a H-phosphonate, an alkyl, an alkyl sulfonyl, or an arylalkyl sulfonyl; and

R^4 is NH_2 or OH;

and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 138 (Currently Amended): The method for the treatment of hepatitis C infection of claim 137, wherein R^7 is H and R^1 is a monophosphate, a diphosphate, or a triphosphate.

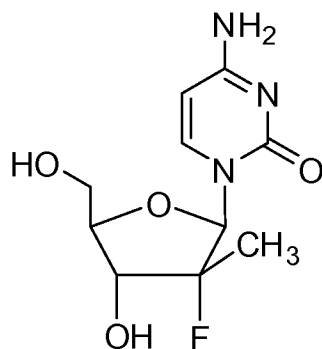
Claim 139 (New): The method for the treatment of hepatitis C infection of claim 137, wherein R^7 is H and R^1 is a diphosphate, or a triphosphate.

Claim 140 (New): The method for the treatment of hepatitis C infection of claim 137, wherein R^7 is H and R^1 is a triphosphate.

Claim 141 (New): The method for the treatment of hepatitis C infection of claim 137, wherein R^1 and R^7 are H.

Claim 142 (New): A method for the treatment of hepatitis C infection, which comprises:

administering to a mammal in need thereof an antivirally effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a (2'*R*)-2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro-2'-*C*-methyl nucleoside (β -D) or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of the formula:



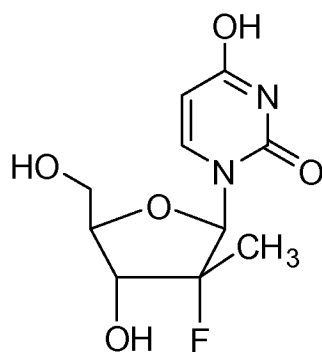
and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 143 (New): A method for the treatment of hepatitis C infection, which comprises:

administering to a mammal in need thereof an antivirally effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising

a (2'*R*)-2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro-2'-*C*-methyl nucleoside (β -D) or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of the formula:



and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 144 (New): The method of as recited in any one of claims 130-143, wherein the antivirally effective amount of the nucleoside is administered in combination or alternation with at least one treatment selected from among an antiviral treatment, an antibacterial treatment, an anticancer treatment, and interferon.